



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Mike Gowrylow
(360) 570-6048

Scott Marlow
Assistant Attorney General
(206) 389-2098

Moses Lake Florist Pleads Guilty to Theft of Sales Taxes

Ephrata, Wash., Sept. 26, 2006 — A Moses Lake florist was sentenced today after pleading guilty to first degree theft of sales tax.

Sally Walton, owner of Moses Lake Floral, admitted failing to remit to the Department of Revenue sales tax she collected from customers. Grant County Superior Court Judge Kenneth Jorgenson ordered Walton to pay \$112,224 in restitution, including unremitted taxes, penalties and interest.

The charges were brought last March by the Criminal Justice Division of the Attorney General's Office at the request of the Washington State Department of Revenue, and with the concurrence of the Grant County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

According to the charging papers, Walton and her late husband, William W. Walton, had not filed a state tax return since they purchased the business in 1998. A Department of Revenue audit concluded that the business had collected \$93,805 in state and local sales tax on its sales between January 2000 and June 2004 but remitted none of that to the Department as required by law.

###